

We have Spun a faire T H R E A D:

O R,
LONDONs Recantation, upon fear of
her approaching Miseries;

Being a Speech lately Delivered in
the Common Councell of *London*,
upon sight of the Armies
R E M O N S T R A N C E:

And their Garrisoning of *Hampton-Court*, and
other the Kings Houses on both sides of the City,
with purpose (as is suspected) to block up
London by degrees, in case the Parliament
shall not agree to their arrogant
Demands.



Printed in the Yeare, 1648.

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London Record upon fear of

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Printed in the Year, 1648.



We have spun a faire Thread :

Q. R.
Londons Recantation, upon feare of her approaching Miseries.

When of very deed, my Neighbours and Friends
our goodly Armie hath serv'd us finely : they
intend, for ought I perceive, to give us it home
in our bootes, and to leave us an example unto
all ensuing ages of their wretched condition,
that shall wrest the authority out of the hands of their lawfull
and undoubted Sovereigne, and put it into the hands of Soul-
diers : for as much benefit as wee are likely to reape by it, wee
have no longer need to boast of our great successes, and signall
victories, or to continue our new-moones of thanksgiving :
'tis very probable that wee shall obtaine no other boone of the
Armie for them, then what the Gyant afforded *Ulysses*, to be de-
voured last : doe wee not now see, that all the specious shewes
and gay promises of enjoying Liberties, Properties, Charters,
Priviledges, and what not, have beene but Cantharides, and
intoxicated Drugs, that have first taken us by the braines,
and afterward by the noses : that our little Levites and ambling
Lecturers, like so many South-sayers and Enchanters, have se-
duced us into the hands and toiles of downe-right Tyrants,
and caus'd us to enslave our selves to a Power, whose right is
only in might, that holds none the honest partie, but the Rascall
cunning and Dregs of the people, none other *Machiavels*, or
Delinquents, but the rich. To tell you plainly what I think,

I am bodily afraid, that shortly wee must open both our Shops, and Purkes, not onely lending, but crediting as farre as the Sword shall think fit; in conclusion, lead Gentlemens lives, having little to doe, and little to eat. It is evident, Brethren, that wee are in a farr way to be conducted ranker slaves than the Christians in *Turkie*, or the Jewes in *Avignon*: What have wee, wee may call our own? all is yours Gentlemen of the Army; yours I say, that set your feet upon our throats, & intend hereafter whom you please to brand with Malignancie or disaffection; to be of no higher imployment hereafter, but meere *Gibeonites*, onely hewers of wood, and drawers of water for the Sainted-*Israelites*, owners of nothing, all at the Armies beck; and that it may continue so, they fill all Townes, Castles, Fortresses, Countries, private Mansions, and particular places, with what Garrisons they please; our Citie Priviledges are gone downe the water, our Chamber of *London* which was held, not only the Barck of this famous Citie, but the relief & refuge of our glorious Princes in their urgent affaires, is now gone to the Shambles; nay, our Parliament is not onely laid at, but in danger to be utterly violated, except they will ratifie and confirme that which will directly annihilate and nullifie them. That Power which they first gave being, and life unto, and after rays'd, receiv'd not onely subsistence and warmth, but growth and strength from it, now begins not onely to hisse, but threatens to sting, demanding to be *Cesar*; and that besides it, there be *Nallus*: The Power and Authority of the Crowne (under whose shade the Branches of our Citie reach'd, not onely thorow the Land, but thorow Christendome) that (they say) must wholly be laid aside; that of our Parliament limited to such a period, after that they have first confirmed the power and domineering sway of an Armie to stand for ever. Is not this out of Gods blessing into the warme, Sun Neighbours? are wee not amended (think yee?) much after the sort of sowre Ale in Summer: yet amidst all our miseries, this is not the least, that hardly are wee permitted to complaine of woes and calamities, to aske redresse, or seeke remedie in them; but holding Death betweene our teeth, wee must say

wee are well; and that wee are but too too happy, being most unhappy for so good a Cause. O London! Thou couldst not once away with thy King, so milde, gentle, and clement in all His expressions toward thee, that honoured thee with His continuall residence, enrich'd thee by His constant care of maintaining Peace and Amity with all Forraigne Nations, beautified thee with advantageous Priviledges, and honourable Exemptions, fortified and strengthened thee with sumptuous and strong Shipping, farre above any of His Predecessors, that ever reigned over thee; so that he may justly exclaime against thee, in upbraiding thy unthankfulness; *What could I have done more for my City of London, then I have not done?* Yet this Prince, Neighbours, wee could not be content to endure among us: How! indure among us, said I? Nay, wee hunted Him from his Metropolitan Citie, from his Palace, from his Bed: How! hunted Him? Nay, wee pursued Him; How! pursued Him? Nay, sold our Goods, melted our Plate, even to Bodkins, Rings, Spoones and Whistles, pawn'd our rich apparel, fast'd hard, and pinched our bellies, to raise an Army to fight, take, ruinate and imprison Him: and at what time wee understood of any defeat given Him, or disaster befallen Him, our Streets shin'd from one end to th' other with Bon-fires; Our Bells sang it from our Steeples; Our Cloak-men clamoured it from the Pulpits; Our Churches, that were chiefly Ordained as places wherein to pray for Princes, and commend their welfare unto God (as in whom all good Leige people have undoubtedly a part) now being chang'd into Theaters and Changes of newes; where none was heard more welcome then the sad downfall of Him, that is very like to draw ours along with it for company. And now wee may see, if wee will see, nay, feele, what His subversion hath availed us; for one wee have many thousand; for Noble Peeres, and Personages of high ranck and qualitie, that rowling in their Coaches, were wont to visit our Shops, and to exchange their treasure for our precious commodities; wee are now haunted with Catch-pole, Tax-poles, Hape-chair-Committees, Ever-Droppers, Informers, (that catch our words (yea, almost our looks) at every bownd; not forgetting our exacting Excise-

men, by whose meanes wee are forc't to buy our owne before wee can sell it one way, and to pay for it twice what wee buy but once of another. Wee could not once beare a light Augmentation of a small Tax and Imposition of Ship-Money, imployd notwithstanding for the glory of the English Nation, the Sovereignie and absolute command of the King in his Narrow Seas, the safetie and benefit of our Trade, and which Levie of Ship-Money, was every yeare lessened the full moiety of the former Proportion: This I say, wee all cryed out upon, as a most unsupportable Burthen, more intollerable a thousand times than the Spanish Inquisition, and more harsh to be undergone by Spirits, franck and free-borne (such as are wee of London) then the cruellest death the exquisitest Tormentors can devise: And yet for these eight yeares wee have tamely endured the Plundering of our houses, the Ransoming of our lives, nay, even ordinarie liberties; yea, when it hath been observed that we did it at the first without much demur, perceiving it to come easily; another Hole being suddenly picked in our Coat, wee have beene forc't to come to the Stake againe, and re-buy our selves to our very drops of blood, or to lye by it in Prisons.

Wee have within very short time past, seene not onely the strait Imprisonment of two Lord Mayors, the death of one in his Restraint, the immuring of our Recorder, with divers other Senators of this Citie, of eminent note, and that without any Legall Impeachment preceding; but also divers Citizens unusually Banished; yea, some Hanged and Massacred. This wee have beheld, this wee have suffered; Nay, not onely suffered, but approv'd, and commended; Neither durst wee, could wee, or knew wee to doe otherwise: Now as in Maladie Naturall, so in Miseries Politicall; the longer they reigne, commonly the farther they spread: Now, wee see the Staffe is just brought home, and set at our owne doores: The Armie meanes hereafter, that none shall have occasion to speake of others, and leave out himselve; they'll use a distributive Justice toward us, and serve us all alike: None shall have more occasion of Complaint then another; there's some equalitie in that yet: If they have not satisfaction,

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tion (forsooth) in the Points of their Scarring Remon-
strance, they are resolved to put us out of our long Frenzie
by a sudden feare, even faire and well block and shup us up by
Approaches; close us within the Precincts, if not, the Walls
of London; Cage us up, and teach us to sing the dolefull Dit-
tie of *Lacryme*; and make us confesse, that now wee are met
with indeed: Pray God, in stead of our Tables well furni-
shed for our plentiful Feasts, and choice of daintie Viands,
wee are not shortly brought to our Allowance of Bread and
Cheese; And for Legs of Mutton, be content to make a
meale with Sheepes-Trotters; that a morcell of Powdred-
Beefe serve for all Courses: God grant, that shortly wee are
not put to our choice of extreame Penurie, or utmost Slave-
rie. The Armie would faine make us believe, That what they
doe is but for the maintenance of the true Religion, and Sa-
fetic, Libertie, and good of the people; which they say, to
be *Suprema Lex*. 'Tis well, let's examine a little their car-
riages and behaviours (not toward the King (for by their De-
claration, tis out of question) and a thing decided by them)
but toward the Parliament, the people, and us. I have read a
little Neighbours (as my Trading and takings would give me
leave.) I have farther in my Youth, as my Masters Factor,
seene some Forraigne Countries, and travelled Strange Lands,
where I have found the saying of our Saviour Christ to be
true; *a superbus coram cognoscerebunt eos*. (I think my Latin be-
night Neighbours) at length wee know many intentions by their
workes and actions.

First, with fir-reverence to the Armie be it spoken, They
shew no great respect to the Parliament (their *quondam* Ma-
sters) when at their instance onely, and because they will have
it so, the Treatie with the King must be broken off, on whose
issue the eyes of the whole Kingdome, nay of the whole Mo-
narchie were fixt, as the ground of their future Peace or en-
suing Distempers, and for the maintenance of the truth of
Religion, except the truth of Religion consists in plurality
and multiplicitie of Religions, (not to say infinities of them)
I will say nothing but what all *England*, yea the least child in
London knowes; Every man in the Armie hath a Religion af-

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ter his own Fashion, cut out to the size of his own inclination; every Souldier thinking and holding it as unseemly and unfitting a thing in the Armie to have a Religion all of one Religion; as their Clothes of one moode, or their Horse of one colour. Now for their good will towards us (Brethren) Iudge you of that, whether their beleaguering London in this wise, and stopping, or at least intercepting our Provisions, (taking the best and leaving the worst for our wives suppers) can argue any good will towards us? Nay, my Neighbours, I am of opinion (and so I am sure are most of you) that they draw nigh us rather out of reasons respective to themselves, then true affection relating to us: Truly Neighbours, I tell you plainly, I had rather have their room then their company: For as touching Souldiers and Beggers, I love them best when they are farthest off.

To come uide, my Neighbours, I doubt wee are all in the trammell of the All-mine, & yet not cleare thence, without losse of haire, if not of skin; wee having had in this matter at the beginning, no more braines then a Horse, have playd just the part of *Asops* Horse: who to keepe himselfe from the Stagge, which he conceived more nimble and active then himselfe, call'd man to his ayde; but he soon ordered him, caused him to be Bitted, Shaddled, Saddled, and made ready; he speedily mounts him, with a good paire of Rowelled Spurres, rides him a Hunting the Stagge, and every where else he thought good, without ever alighting, unbridling, or unlading him, and by this meanes made him manageable both to his Switch and Spurre; for to serve his turn afterwards of him, both to Plow, Cart, Mill, and other needs he should at times have occasion for.

Just so will the Armie deale with us; And be well assured, That if they once get within us, they will quickly get a rop of us; yea, and our Goods, yea, and our Daughter, yea, and our Wives too: And if once a rop, wee must never looke to get them downe againe till they have done with them, and then you may fling them to the Dunghill: For I will undertake, what they cast off, the Divell will scarce take up.